

Weekly Status & Information Report:
Week of October 2-October 6, 2006

1. **Pedestrian Safety:** Approximately 27 police officers from Montgomery County, Takoma Park and Prince George's County collaborated to educate both pedestrians and motorists about pedestrian safety. While police officers patrolled the Takoma-Langley Crossroads, volunteers from Columbia Union College and the Northwestern Boys and Girls Club distributed various pedestrian safety materials. In a two-hour time period, 47 citations were issued (ranging from speeding to failure to yield to jay walking) and over 1,000 pedestrian safety brochures were distributed to the general public in the Takoma-Langley Crossroads. Various media sources were in attendance as well, including at least four Hispanic media sources (La Nacion, Telemundo, Univision and the Washington Hispanic). CSAFE has been coordinating multi-jurisdictional pedestrian safety events since 2003. *(Police)*
2. **Street Restoration (Ward 1):** Concrete sidewalk, curb, gutter, and driveway apron replacement continues on Willow Avenue. Work is expected to continue through October 13th. *(Public Works)*
3. **Takoma Metro Hearing:** The WMATA hearing on proposed changes to the transit facilities at the Takoma Metro station is scheduled for October 11th. A great deal of information can be accessed through the City's web site: www.takomaparkmd.gov. Click on Takoma Metro Development. The proposal will affect everyone who uses the Metro station or lives near the station. Please take time to learn about the plans and voice your comments. Contact Suzanne Ludlow at 301-891-7229 or SuzanneL@takomagov.org if you have questions. *(Community and Government Liaison)*
4. **Planning Board Testimony:** Councilmember Doug Barry testified on behalf of the City of Takoma Park before the Montgomery County Planning Board on Thursday, October 5th. He advocated for staffing and support for undertaking the Takoma/Langley Sector Plan, a master planning effort for the area near the University/New Hampshire intersection in both Montgomery and Prince George's Counties. Prince George's County has already allocated staff and funding for the effort. Councilmember Barry also requested Park and Planning staff assistance for concept design work along the full length of New Hampshire Avenue, from the Washington, D.C. border through Wards 3, 2 and then 6, ending at University Boulevard. *(Community and Government Liaison)*
5. **Verizon Franchise:** The County Executive delivered a Franchise Agreement to the County Council today. The County Council will introduce legislation regarding this Franchise on October 10th. Scheduled events include an MFP worksession on October 30th at 10:30 a.m, a public hearing on October 31st at 1:30 p.m., and additional MFP worksession on November 13th. The Council action on the Franchise is scheduled for November 28th. City staff is generally pleased with the Franchise Agreement and looks forward to the County Council's discussion on the franchise. *(City TV)*
6. **College Bound:** City TV staff taped the first of the Library's College Bound series, which was held on Thursday, October 5th. *(City TV)*
7. **Takoma Park Street Festival:** City TV staff taped performances at all three stages all day at the Street Festival on Sunday, October 1st. *(City TV)*

8. **Snapshots:** October Snapshots is airing on City TV 13 and will be available on the website by next week. Features include Community Oriented Policing: On the Beat in Takoma Park, Maple Avenue Culture Fair, Takoma Park Poetry Series: Anne Becker and Lara Payne, and 29th Annual Folk Festival highlights. *(City TV)*

9. **Re-assigned Duties:** In light of Carol Bannerman's upcoming departure, Cpl. Andy John has been assigned a 90-day temporary position as the Police Information Officer. In addition to PIO duties, he will be working on Accreditation efforts and other special projects which had been assigned to Ms. Bannerman. *(Police)*

10. **The Chief and Staff in Meetings:** Acting Chief Coursey attended a meeting of the LInX project oversight board, which voted to admit the cities of Hyattsville, Mt. Ranier, Bladensburg and Riverdale Park as project members. This project, which is being conducted with federal Urban Area Security Initiative funds, will link databases operated by member organizations to provide one-stop access to records for investigative purposes. It is a valuable step towards regional information sharing designed to overcome some limitations of jurisdictional fragmentation. Ms. Pullet attended a two-day training course on Planning and Overseeing the Training of Communications Personnel in Frederick, Maryland. *(Police)*

11. **Vehicle Enforcement:** Of 62 traffic stops this past week, 80% resulted in citations of some type being issued. *(Police)*

12. **K-9 News:** Interviews will be conducted next week to select a replacement handler for the Department's K-9, Diesel. *(Police)*

13. **Regional Leadership Conference on Green Building:** Several HCD staff members attended the Regional Leadership Conference on Friday, September 29th. Sponsored by the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments in partnership with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Maryland, DC and Virginia Energy Offices, the conference featured best practice and policies of local governments in the region and across the nation. *(Housing and Community Development)*

14. **Montgomery County Housing Fair and Financial Literacy Day (Citywide):** Montgomery County Housing Fair and Financial Literacy Day will be held this Saturday, October 7th from 10a.m.to 3 p.m. The event will be held at the Activity Center at Bohrer Park in Gaithersburg and is the place to be if you are interested in finding out about affordable housing programs in the County. There will be drawings for six \$500 cash prizes for your rent or mortgage. You will be able to obtain a free credit report on site and learn how to read it. Sixty (60) exhibitors will be present to help you explore affordable housing programs, mortgages, and opportunities. Admission is free and there is plenty of entertainment throughout the day for children. *(Housing and Community Development)*

15. **Rebuilding Together - Applications Available (Citywide):** Rebuilding Together, a non-profit organization that repairs the homes of low income seniors, disabled or families with children at no cost to the homeowner, is looking for projects in the Takoma Park area. The organization will work on approximately 110 homes in the spring and fall of 2007. Recipients must own their home and have a household income of no more

than \$29,000 for a one-person household, \$33,000 for a two- person household (add an additional \$4,000 for each additional individual). An application can be obtained on their website at www.rebuildingtogethertmc.org or by calling Linda Walker at 301.891.7222. *(Housing and Community Development)*

16. Park Ritchie Tenants Meeting (Ward 4): Landlord-Tenant staff and community organizers Rozanne Look and Mario Cristaldo met with the tenants of the Park Ritchie Apartments, located at 7600 Maple Avenue on Wednesday, October 4th. The purpose of the meeting was to address their questions about the hardship petition process and code violations in the building. The tenants expressed an interest in forming a tenants' association, so initial steps were taken to enlist the needed 63 members. Five tenants signed on to be part of a steering committee. They will meet with the community organizers on Monday, October 9th. *(Housing and Community Development)*

17. Atrium Gallery Exhibit (Citywide): The Drawings, Paintings and Collages Works by Takoma Park Artists/The Students of Katie Dell Kaufman are this month's featured exhibit at the Community Center. A reception celebrating the artists and their work will be held on Sunday, October 29th from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. in the atrium lobby. *(Housing and Community Development)*

18. Call for Artists (Citywide): The Arts and Humanities Commission (AHC) is soliciting artists interested in participating in its December 16th art sale and open studio tour. For more information, please contact the AHC at 301.891.7224 or by email at ahc@takomagov.org. *(Housing and Community Development)*